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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/575,545	05/02/2007	Hermanus Franciscus Maria van Meijl	59070US007	8932
32692 7590 10/19/2007 3M INNOVATIVE PROPERTIES COMPANY PO BOX 33427 ST. PAUL, MN 55133-3427			EXAMINER VU, HIEN D	
			ART UNIT 2833	PAPER NUMBER
			NOTIFICATION DATE 10/19/2007	DELIVERY MODE ELECTRONIC

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

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Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/575,545

Applicant(s)

VAN MEJIL

Examiner

Hien D. Vu

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 25-41 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 25-41 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date ____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date ____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: ____.

DETAILED ACTION

1. The specification is objected to because on page 7, line 4-5 and page 8, lines 25 and 28, the terms used for elements "14"; and page 8, lines 28- 29 and page 9, lines 8,9 and 11 the terms used for elements "50" and "52" are not consistent. Applicant is required to review the entire disclosure and make corrections where necessary.
2. Claims 25-41 are objected to because in claim 1, line 8, "their mechanical contact with each other" is confusing and unclear; line 10, "associated to" is unclear.
3. Claims 26-41 are rejected under 35 USC 112 since they are unclear and being indefinite because they are depended from canceled claims. Exception of claim 37 depending from claim 25 only.
4. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

5. (e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.
6. Claims 25 and 37 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Huang (6929501).

Insofar as the claims can be understood, Huang, Figs. 2-4 show a connector shell 1 for a connector component of a connector arrangement for a wire cable comprising: a housing 11 including first contact elements 122, the housing being provided with at least one first guiding element 124 having an axis for guiding the housing along a second guiding element 211 of a mating connector component 2 of the

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connector arrangement upon coupling with the mating connector component allowing alignment of the first contact elements with mating second contact elements of the mating connector component prior to a mechanical contact with each other, and at least one fastening element 123 associated to the at least one first guiding element and substantially aligned with the axis of the at least one first guiding element for engagement with the second guiding element of the mating connector component.

As to claim 37, Huang shows the mating connector component 2 for connecting to the connector shell 1 comprising at least one second guiding element 211 along which the at least one first guiding element of the housing of the connector shell is guidable, the second guiding element comprising a receiving portion (not labeled) for receiving a portion of the fastener element 123 of the connecting shell.

7. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

8. Claims 26-41 (with exception of claim 37 depend from claim 25) are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Huang (6929501).

Insofar as the claims can be understood, the features of claims 26-41 (with exception of claim 37 depend from claim 25) would have been obvious of modification of Huang's connector to achieve better result.

9. Frantz, Welsh, Ayers et al, Moore, Jr. et al, Wu, Baron et al; and Waters are cited for disclosure of electrical connectors having guiding elements.

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10. Any inquiry concerning this communication should be directed to Hien D. Vu at telephone number 571-272-2016.

HV

9/30/07



HIEN VU
PRIMARY EXAMINER